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Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Financing arrangements for the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. During its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the financing arrangements for the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 (A/72/778), the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 17 April 2018.

2. In its resolutions 2277 (2016) of 30 March 2016 and 2348 (2017) of 31 March 2017, the Security Council requested MONUSCO to provide technical assistance and logistical support for the revision of the electoral register and to facilitate the electoral cycle, in particular by engaging in a regular and substantial dialogue with the Independent National Electoral Commission. On 5 November 2017, the Commission published an electoral calendar scheduling the simultaneous holding of presidential and legislative (national and provincial) elections on 23 December 2018, with a number of prerequisites linked to its implementation (A/72/778, paras. 1–4). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that these prerequisites include: (i) the completion of the cleaning of the electoral register (5 April 2018); (ii) the completion of the audit of the electoral register (25 May); (iii) the adoption and promulgation of the annex to the electoral law on seat allocation (8 May); (iv) the convocation of the electorate (23 June); (v) the registration of candidates for the presidential and national legislative elections (from 25 July to 18 August); (vi) the publication of the final list of candidates for the presidential and national legislative elections (September); (vii) the recruitment and training of personnel for the Independent National Electoral Commission (August to 5 December); (viii) the preparation and distribution of election materials to the field (October to

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5 December); (ix) the accreditation of witnesses, observers and journalists (8 November to 22 December); and (x) a period of campaigning (22 November to 21 December).

3. In its resolution 71/301, concerning the budget period 2017/18, the General Assembly approved an appropriation for the maintenance of MONUSCO in the amount of $1,141,848,100. The Secretary-General indicates in paragraph 18 of his report (A/72/778) that the Mission has made efforts to reprioritize resources in order to meet the unbudgeted operational requirements related to the technical assistance and logistical support for the revision of the electoral register. As indicated in paragraph 21 of the report, MONUSCO would not be able to absorb a further amount of $47,922,700 in connection with election-related activities. This would then result in total resources for the period 2017/18 in the amount of $1,189,770,800.

4. The report of the Secretary-General provides details with respect to the additional requirements that pertain to military contingents ($3,077,800), civilian personnel ($2,978,800) and operational costs ($41,866,100) (ibid., paras. 5–18). These requirements include, inter alia, resources in connection with the proposed deployment of a geolocation threat analysis unit, the repatriation of three attack helicopters and the settlement of a prior-period claim by a vendor. With respect to the settlement, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the contract under which claims had arisen had been signed by the vendor on 31 July 2015 and that the vendor had filed a number of claims in 2016 and 2017. The Committee was also informed that the United Nations and the vendor had agreed on a global settlement of the claims in January 2018 in the amount of $3,620,700. **The Committee questions whether the requirements related to the 2015/16 period should have been deferred to the 2017/18 period. The Committee is of the view that these additional costs should have been requested in the 2015/16 period through the submission of a revised proposed budget or a request for commitment authority and subsequently reflected in the context of the performance report for the 2016/17 period (see A/72/638 and A/72/638/Corr.1).**

5. With respect to past expenditure for the purposes of election-related activities, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that during the period 2016/17, MONUSCO had expended and absorbed an amount of $37,413,900 in support of voter registration for the planned elections.

6. The Advisory Committee was informed that, based on current projections, MONUSCO expects to utilize 100 per cent of its approved budget for the 2017/18 financial period, not including the $47,922,700 in additional resources required. The Committee was also informed that, as at 5 March 2018, the cash reserves of the mission amounted to $228,831,900 and that, after deductions pertaining to the three-month operating reserve, in the amount of $186,208,400, MONUSCO would be left with a cash reserve of $42,623,500.

7. With respect to the recruitment of 102 staff funded under general temporary assistance to be located in various offices throughout the Mission area, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that their deployment had commenced in February and would conclude in June 2018, with a total of 4 positions encumbered and the other 98 in various stages of recruitment, as at 9 April 2018. The Committee was also informed, upon enquiry, that the aforementioned 102 positions funded under general temporary assistance would be retained in the 2018/19 period (see A/72/789/Add.11, paras.40 and 41). The Committee was also provided with a breakdown showing the proposed staffing in support of the electoral process for the financial periods 2017/18 and 2018/19.

8. The proposed action to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of MONUSCO for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 is indicated in paragraph 23 of the note by the Secretary-General (A/72/778).

9. **The Advisory Committee points out that the requirements for additional resources related to the above-mentioned electoral assistance could have been presented earlier in 2018, in particular as some activities pertaining to the forthcoming elections, such as the recruitment process of staff to be funded under general temporary assistance, were initiated in February 2018. The Committee is cognizant that, if additional funding were not to be approved for the 2017/18 financial period, MONUSCO would not be able to meet the requirements referred to above from its existing resources.**

10. **Taking into account its comments and recommendations in the paragraphs above, including that the requirements of MONUSCO for the current period may exceed the level of the existing appropriation and, having considered the Mission's cash position as at 5 March 2018 (see para. 6 above), the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly appropriate the amount of $47,922,700 for the maintenance of the Mission for the 12-month period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, in addition to the amount of $1,141,848,100 already appropriated for the same period for the maintenance of the Mission under the terms of Assembly resolution 71/301.**

11. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide detailed information on actual expenditures incurred in the context of the performance report of MONUSCO for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018.**